

Klaus D. Gurgel, Cartographic Editor
B.R. Jones, S.R. Stewart and D.E. Powers, Cartographers

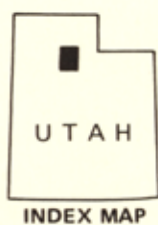
aus D. Gurgel, Cartographic Editor

B.R. Jones, S.R. Stewart and D.E. Powers, Cartographers

Published and sold by
UTAH GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SURVEY
Genevieve Atwood, Director
606 Black Hawk Way
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Contour interval 100 feet
Underwater contour interval 1-f
Datum mean sea level

Appropriations No. 016103
Archives Approval No. 8000396



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH FRONT

Published and sold by UTAH GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SURVEY Genevieve Atwood, Director 606 Black Hawk Way Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

GEOLOGY OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH FRONT

Fitzhugh D. Davis¹

INTRODUCTION

The accompanying map is one of a series that depicts various aspects of the physical environment along the Wasatch Front between Tremonton and Logan on the north and Santaquin on the south. This area is being rapidly urbanized and the impact of human activity on the natural environment has been (and will be) significant.

The geology of the Central Wasatch Front is very diverse and has rocks that represent nearly every geologic time period from Precambrian to Recent, including Tertiary intrusive and extrusive rocks. Only Ordovician and Silurian rocks are not present. Quaternary deposits (unconsolidated materials) have been divided into thirteen units and their delineation and composition should be of considerable interest and help to land use planners, engineers, and developers. Geologic structures found in the map area include: anticlines, synclines, normal faults, and thrust faults.

The map has been divided into six geologic and geographic areas to facilitate discussion. These are Antelope Island, Woods Cross to Clearfield, the Wasatch Mountains, Jordan Valley, the Oquirrh Mountains, and Tooele Valley. The geology of each of these is described briefly in the following paragraphs.

GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Antelope Island
Antelope Island is a peninsula that juts northward into the Great Salt Lake from the southeast shore. A single sharp-crested ridge runs down the middle of the island with the highest point at an elevation of 6,596 feet (2,010 meters).

The bedrock of the island consists of the Precambrian Farmington Canyon Complex, Mineral Fork Tillite, and Mutual Formation. At the northern end of the island is a Cambrian formation, the Tintic Quartzite. These formations mainly consist of gneiss, tillite, and quartzite. The descriptions of these units and all units are given in the map explanation.

Lake Bonneville sediments and alluvial deposits surround the base of the island. They consist of shoreline (beach) deposits, stream channel deposits, and very fine-grained lake bottom deposits. (Lake Bonneville was a Late Pleistocene lake of which present Great Salt Lake is a remnant.)

The Bonneville sediments consist of the Lake Bonneville group which is divided into three formations: Alpine (oldest), Bonneville, and Provo (youngest). These sediments are unconsolidated, but locally may be loosely cemented by calcium carbonate. Numerous terraces of Lake Bonneville are notched into the flanks and spurs of the isle ridge.

The main structure of the island is an arcuate (convex to the east) trending anticline with steeply dipping limbs (11, p. 93)¹.

Woods Cross to Clearfield

The area is bounded on the west side by the Great Salt Lake and on the east side by the Wasatch Mountains. Most of the area is a plain sloping gently down to the Great Salt Lake. There is a change in slope at elevation 4,460 feet (1,359 meters) where the plain steepens upward toward the mountains to the east.

Most of the streams issuing from the mountains in this area are dissecting or downcutting; examples are Mill Creek, Stone Creek, and Barnard Creek. Only several creeks, including Centerville Creek and Parrish Creek, have built alluvial fans.

Lake Bonneville sediments (and soils developed on them) cover most of the area. These sediments are mapped as four units: (1) Provo Formation and younger lake bottom sediments (Qlb), (2) offshore facies of the Alpine Formation (Qac), (3) shore facies of the Alpine and Bonneville formations (Qba) and (4) shore facies of the Provo Formation (Qpsf). Clay, silt, and fine sand are the main constituents of units one and two. Sand and gravel are the main constituents of units three and four. Many sand and gravel pits have been operating in unit four (8)¹.

In sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26, T. 3 N., R. 1 W. just west of Farmington, is one of the United States' largest landslides of the type known as failure by lateral spreading (21, p. 83)¹. Several other much smaller landslides have been mapped along the mountain front. These slides are potentially hazardous, especially if the toe is cut out.

Wasatch Mountains

These mountains, shown along the east edge of the map, are the westernmost range in the Middle Rocky Mountains physiographic province. The highest point along the central Wasatch Front is Lone Peak with an elevation of 11,253 feet (3,430 meters), in the southeast corner of the map. Other peaks approach this height and the range thus presents a relief of about 7,000 feet (2,134 meters) above the Great Salt Lake, which has an elevation of 4,200 feet (1,280 meters).

The rocks of these mountains range in age from Precambrian to Tertiary. The oldest formation is the Farmington Canyon Complex which forms a metamorphic terrane from east of Woods Cross to Clearfield. The youngest formation is the Early Oligocene Norwood Tuff that mostly crops out in City Creek Canyon. The rocks of the range mostly consist of gneiss, limestone, quartzite, sandstone, and quartz monzonite.

The range has undergone at least two episodes of mountain building. The first resulted in uplift, folding of strata and thrust faulting. The second produced differential uplift and mainly normal faulting. The range is now a highly eroded eastward-tipped fault block (horst). The east-west anticlinal uplift of the Uinta Arch in Late Cretaceous and early Tertiary time created a synclinorium between Little Cottonwood and City Creek canyons. In mid-Tertiary time, igneous rocks, including the Little Cottonwood, Alta, and Bingham stocks were emplaced along the axis of the arch. The axis crosses the Wasatch Front just north of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The Wasatch fault zone marks the western base of the Wasatch Mountains. The zone consists of many branching, braided, and en echelon faults. There are fresh fault scarps that displace Quaternary deposits near the mouths of several canyons southeast of Salt Lake City as well as in the Fruit Heights area (southeast of East Layton) of Davis County. These fresh scarps give ample evidence that the Wasatch fault zone is seismically active at present.

The Salt Lake salient, a spur of the Wasatch Mountains, projects westward about five miles from the front of the range just north of Salt Lake City. It has been down-dropped along a branch fault of the Wasatch fault zone (5)¹. This fault, convex to the east, extends southward from the area of Mueller Park to the University of Utah and then connects with the East Bench fault.

During Pleistocene time the mountains were extensively glaciated. The magnificent cirques at Alta attest to this as well as the U-shaped cross section of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The upper parts of many canyons were occupied by glaciers, and in at least two of them, Bells and Little Cottonwood canyons; the glaciers reached the mountain front.

Jordan Valley

The valley topography has been shaped by Lake Bonneville and by stream activity. Currents in Lake Bonneville and contemporaneous stream flows from the mountains combined to form spits, beaches, bars, and huge deltas such as those at and in between Big and Little Cottonwood canyons and surrounding the mouth of Weber Canyon (10)¹. Pre-Lake Bonneville alluvial fans underlie some of these deposits and project above them on the mountain flanks. Lake bottom sediments form a nearly flat plain in the central part of the valley.

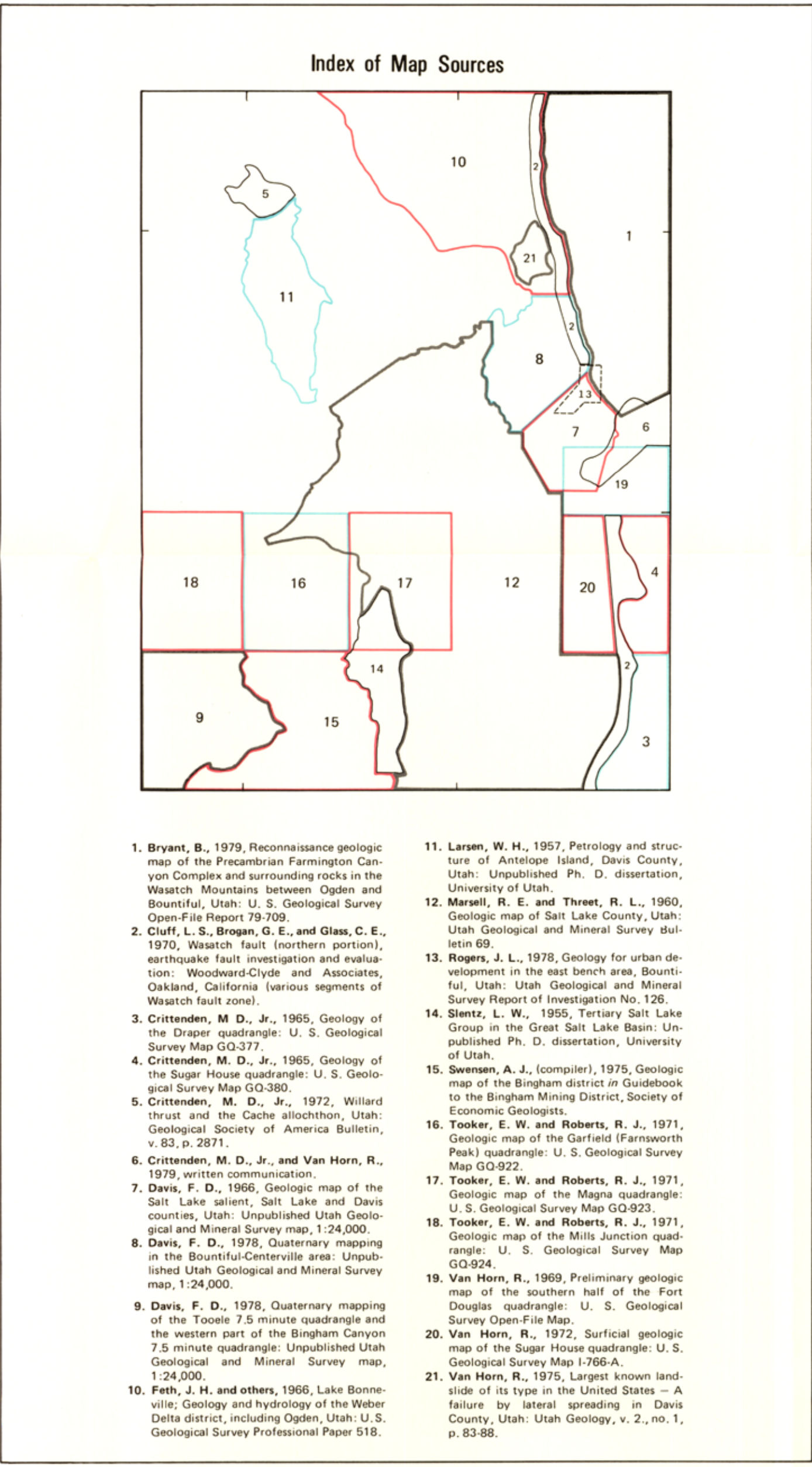
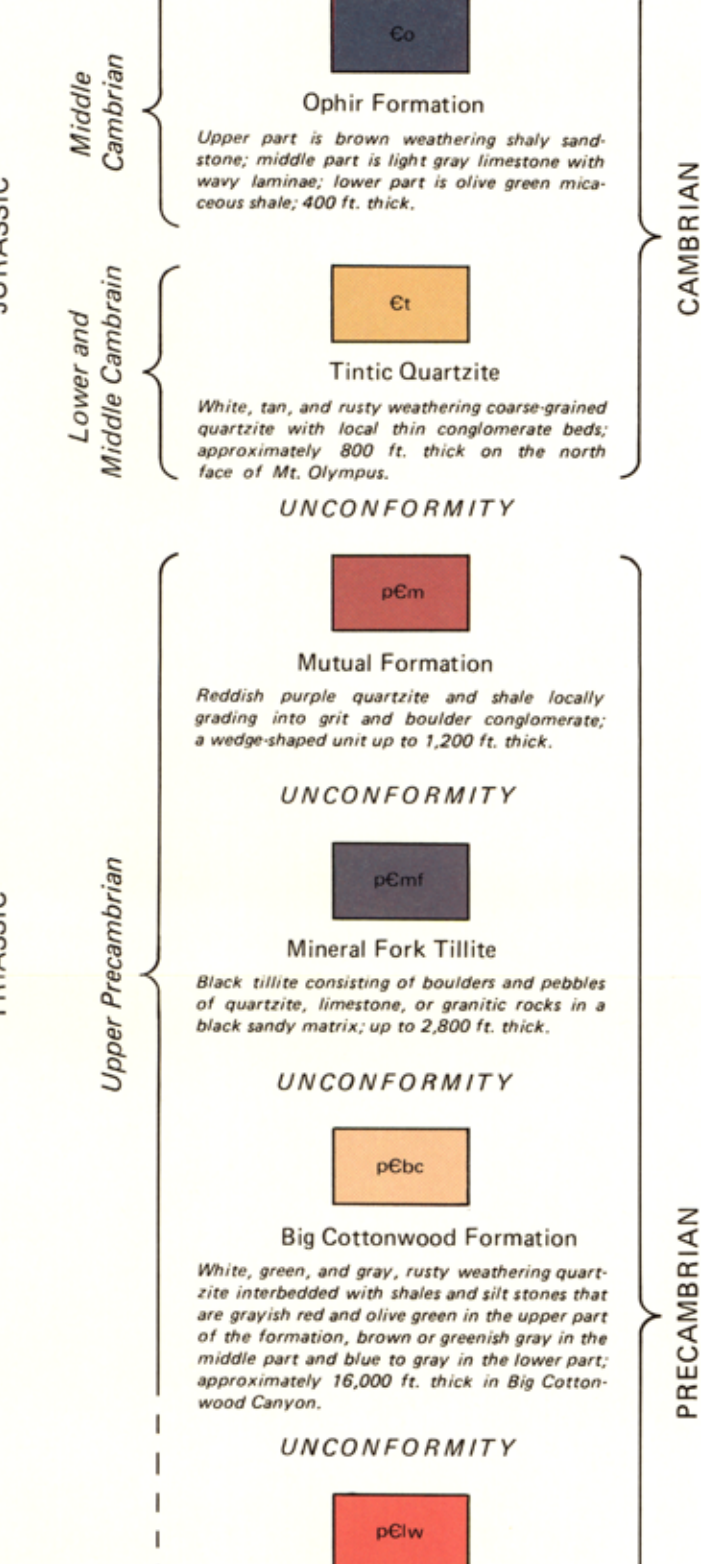
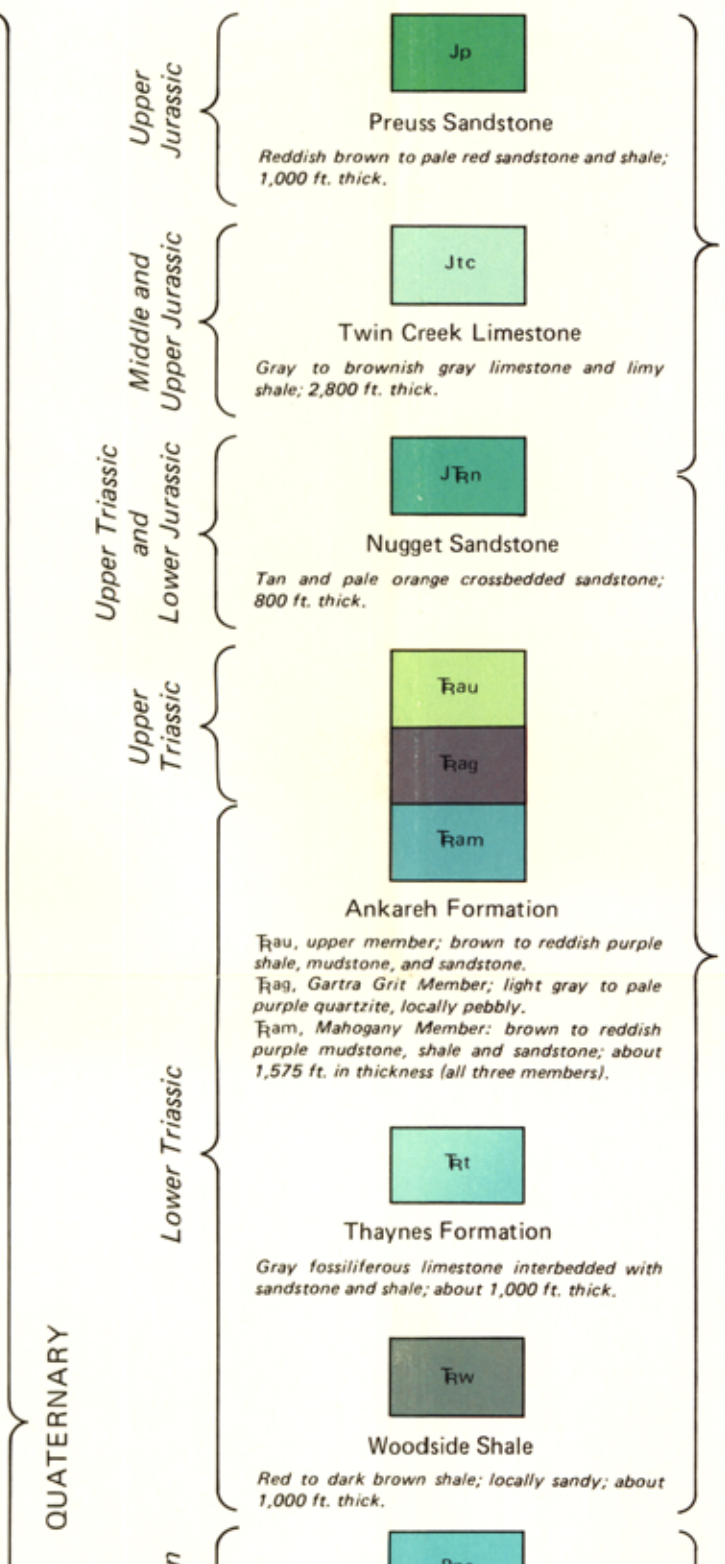
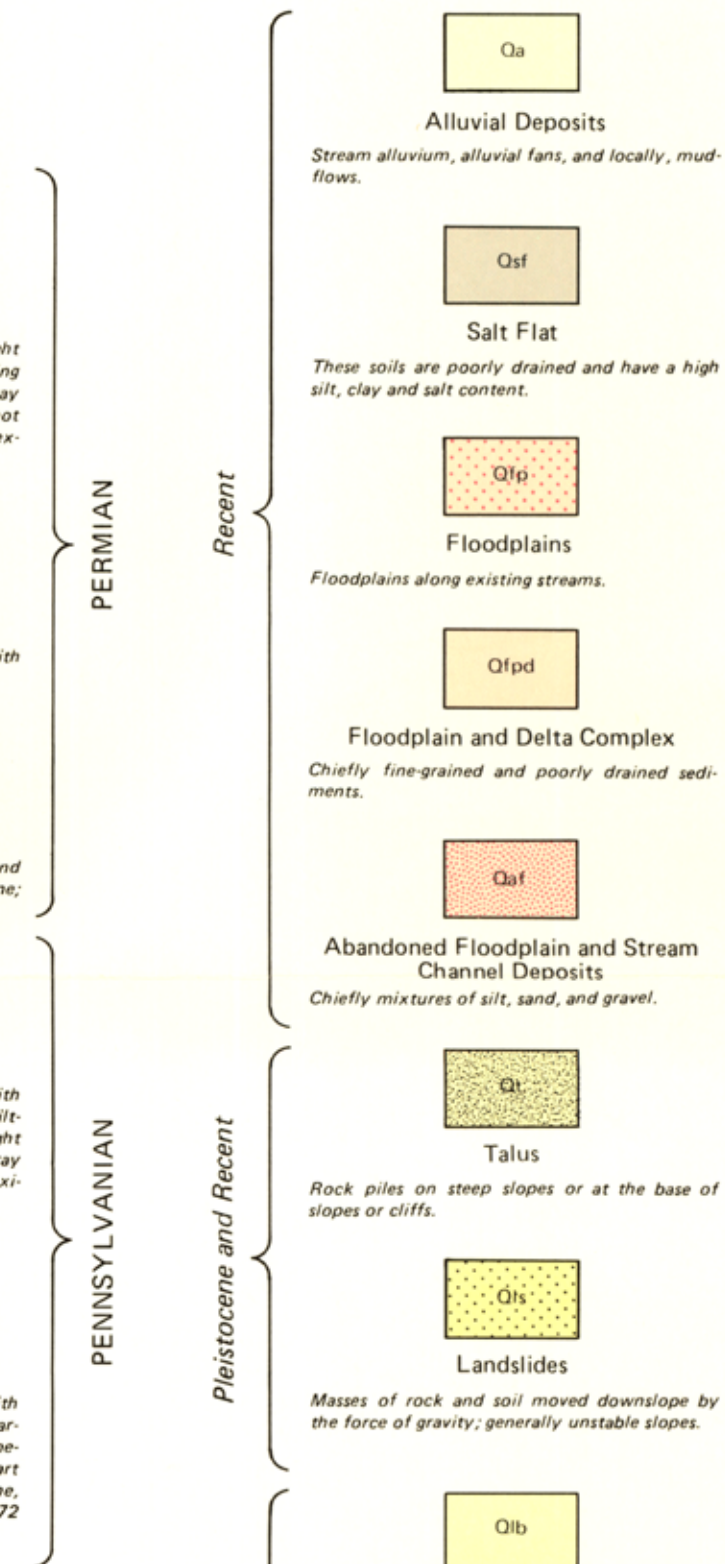
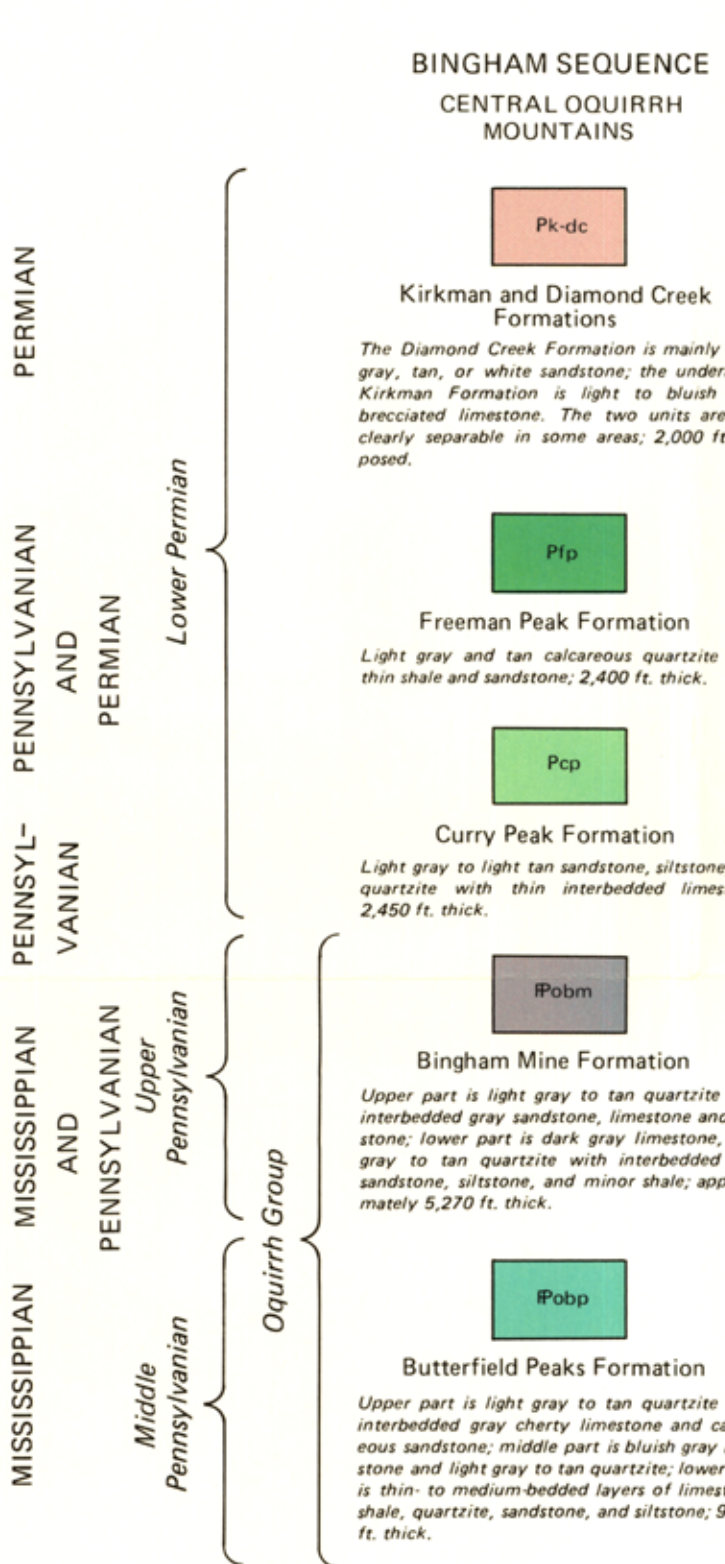
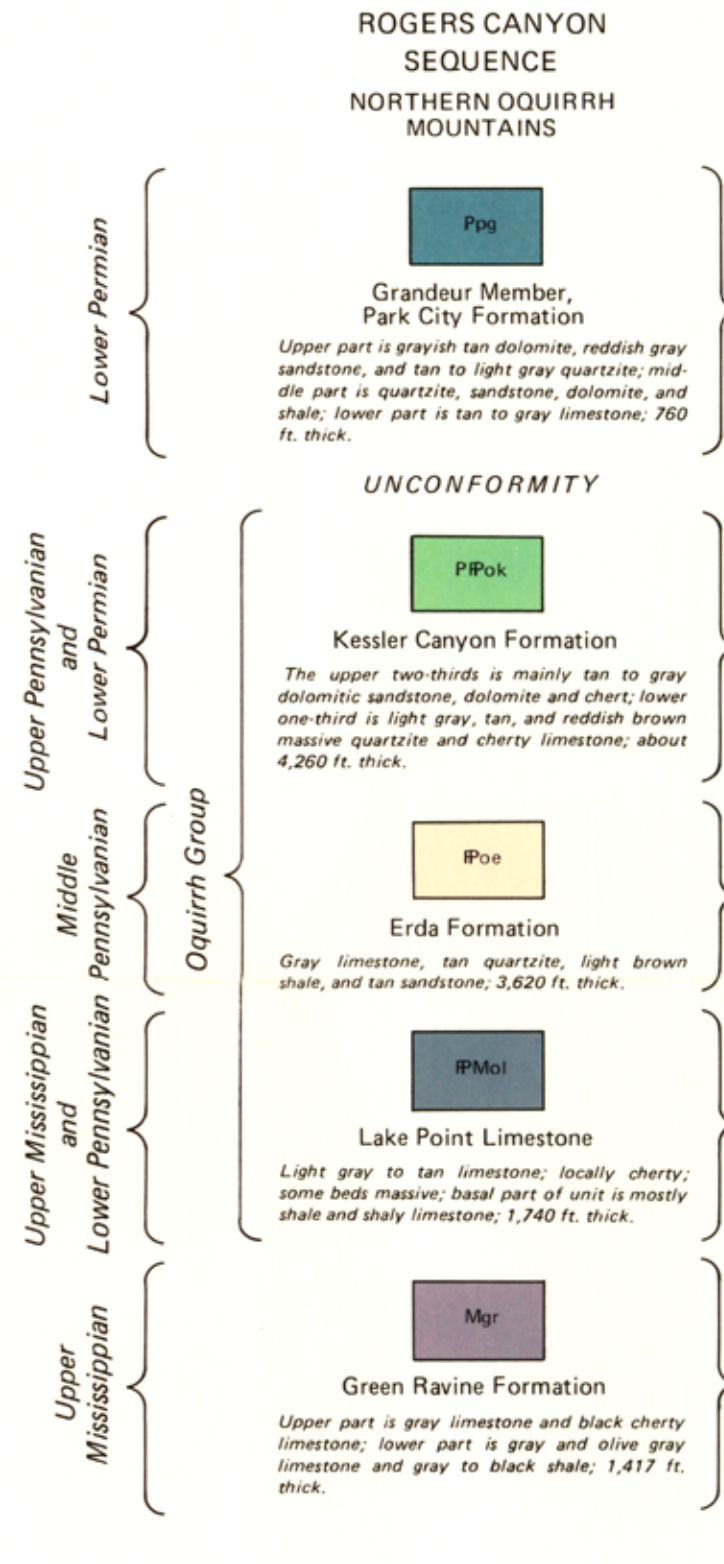
The Jordan River flows northward in the center of the valley from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake. The river has deposited mostly floodplain (overbank) deposits. From about 33rd South Street and northwards to the Great Salt Lake the river has formed a huge fan shaped floodplain and delta complex. Tributaries to the Jordan River, notably City Creek, Parley's Creek, and Big and Little Cottonwood creeks, have also laid down extensive floodplain and/or alluvial deposits.

The Lake Bonneville deposits have been divided and mapped as three units (12)¹. In ascending order of age they are: The Alpine Formation whose deposits occur at an altitude of 5,050 feet (1,539 meters), the Bonneville Formation whose deposits reach an altitude of 5,200 feet (1,585 meters), and the Provo Formation whose deposits are at 4,800 feet (1,463 meters) and below. Distinct terraces can be seen at these elevations on the mountain sides around the valley. The shore facies of the Alpine and Bonneville formations were combined and mapped as one unit (Qba). The shore facies of the Provo Formation were mapped as one unit (Qpsf). Many sand and gravel pits have been opened in this unit. The lake bottom sediments (Qlb) of the Provo Formation were also mapped as a unit. The constituents of these units were given in the Woods Cross to Clearfield section.

¹Geologist, Utah Geological and Mineral Survey.

²Refers to Index of Map Sources numbers.

Oquirrh Mountains



1. Bryant, B., 1979, Reconnaissance geologic map of the Precambrian Farmington Canyon Complex and surrounding rocks in the Wasatch Mountains between Ogden and Bountiful, Utah: U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 79-709.
2. Cluff, L. S., Brown, G. E., and Glass, C. E., 1970, Wasatch fault (northern portion), earthquake fault investigation and evaluation: Woodward-Clyde and Associates, Oakland, California (various segments of Wasatch fault zone).
3. Crittenden, M. D., Jr., 1965, Geology of the Draper quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map GQ-377.
4. Crittenden, M. D., Jr., 1965, Geology of the Sugar House quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map GQ-380.
5. Crittenden, M. D., Jr., 1972, Willard thrust and the Cache allochthon, Utah: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 83, p. 2871.
6. Crittenden, M. D., Jr., and Van Horn, R., 1979, written communication.
7. Davis, F. D., 1966, Geologic map of the Salt Lake salient, Salt Lake and Davis counties, Utah: Unpublished Utah Geological and Mineral Survey map, 1:24,000.
8. Davis, F. D., 1978, Quaternary mapping in the Bountiful-Centerville area: Unpublished Utah Geological and Mineral Survey map, 1:24,000.
9. Davis, F. D., 1978, Quaternary mapping of the Tooele 7.5 minute quadrangle and the western part of the Bingham Canyon 7.5 minute quadrangle: Unpublished Utah Geological and Mineral Survey map, 1:24,000.
10. Feth, J. H., and others, 1966, Lake Bonneville: Geology and hydrology of the Weber Delta district, including Ogden, Utah: U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 518.
11. Larsen, W. H., 1957, Petrology and structure of Antelope Island, Davis County, Utah: Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Utah.
12. Marsell, R. E. and Threet, R. L., 1960, Geologic map of Salt Lake County, Utah: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin 69.
13. Rogers, J. L., 1978, Geology for urban development in the east bench area, Bountiful, Utah: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Report of Investigation No. 126.
14. Stentz, L. W., 1955, Tertiary Salt Lake Group in the Great Salt Lake Basin: Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Utah.
15. Swensen, A. J., (compiler), 1975, Geologic map of the Bingham district in Guidebook to the Bingham Mining District, Society of Economic Geologists.
16. Tooker, E. W. and Roberts, R. J., 1971, Geologic map of the Magna quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map GQ-922.
17. Tooker, E. W. and Roberts, R. J., 1971, Geologic map of the City Creek quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map GQ-923.
18. Tooker, E. W. and Roberts, R. J., 1971, Geologic map of the Mills Junction quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map GQ-924.
19. Van Horn, R., 1969, Preliminary geologic map of the southern half of the Fort Douglas quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Map.
20. Van Horn, R., 1972, Surficial geologic map of the Sugar House quadrangle: U. S. Geological Survey Map I-766-A.
21. Van Horn, R., 1975, Largest known landslide of its type in the United States—A failure by lateral spreading in Davis County, Utah: Utah Geology, v. 2, no. 1, p. 83-88.

Kessler Canyon Formation, and the Grandeur Member of the Park City Formation. These units consist mostly of limestone and quartzite. Structurally, the northern block has several northeast trending anticlines and synclines that have been offset by northwest trending normal faults. The northern block has also been broken into two parts by the north trending Garfield tear fault. The east block has moved downwards and horizontally to the southeast.

The central block contains a much thicker upper Paleozoic section, the Bingham sequence. In ascending order, the units are: Butterfield Peaks Formation, Bingham Mine Formation, Curry Peak Formation, Freeman Peak Formation, Kirkman and Diamond Creek Formations undivided (15, pl. 1 and p. 27)¹. The chief lithologies of these formations are sandstone, quartzite and limestone. These rocks are folded into several north-west-striking anticlines and synclines. They have also been intruded by granite, granite porphyry, and monzonite stocks and dikes. The largest of the stocks has been exposed in the Bingham open-pit where metal ores occur in concentric zones. In the eastern Oquirrh foothills there are outcrops of volcanic rocks that consist of latite flows, andesite flows, and latite breccias (15)¹.

Tooele Valley

This valley is bounded on the east side by the Oquirrh Mountains, on the north by the Great Salt Lake and on the west by the Stansbury Mountains. Most of the

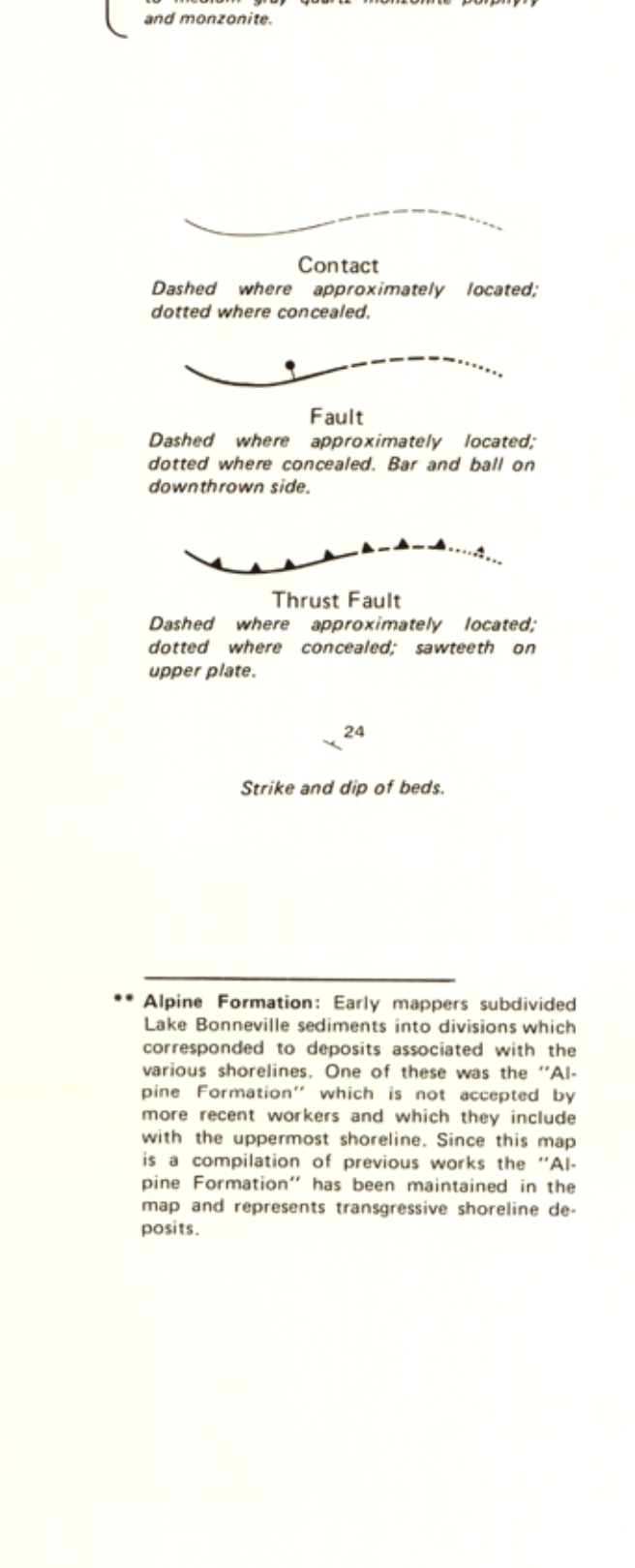
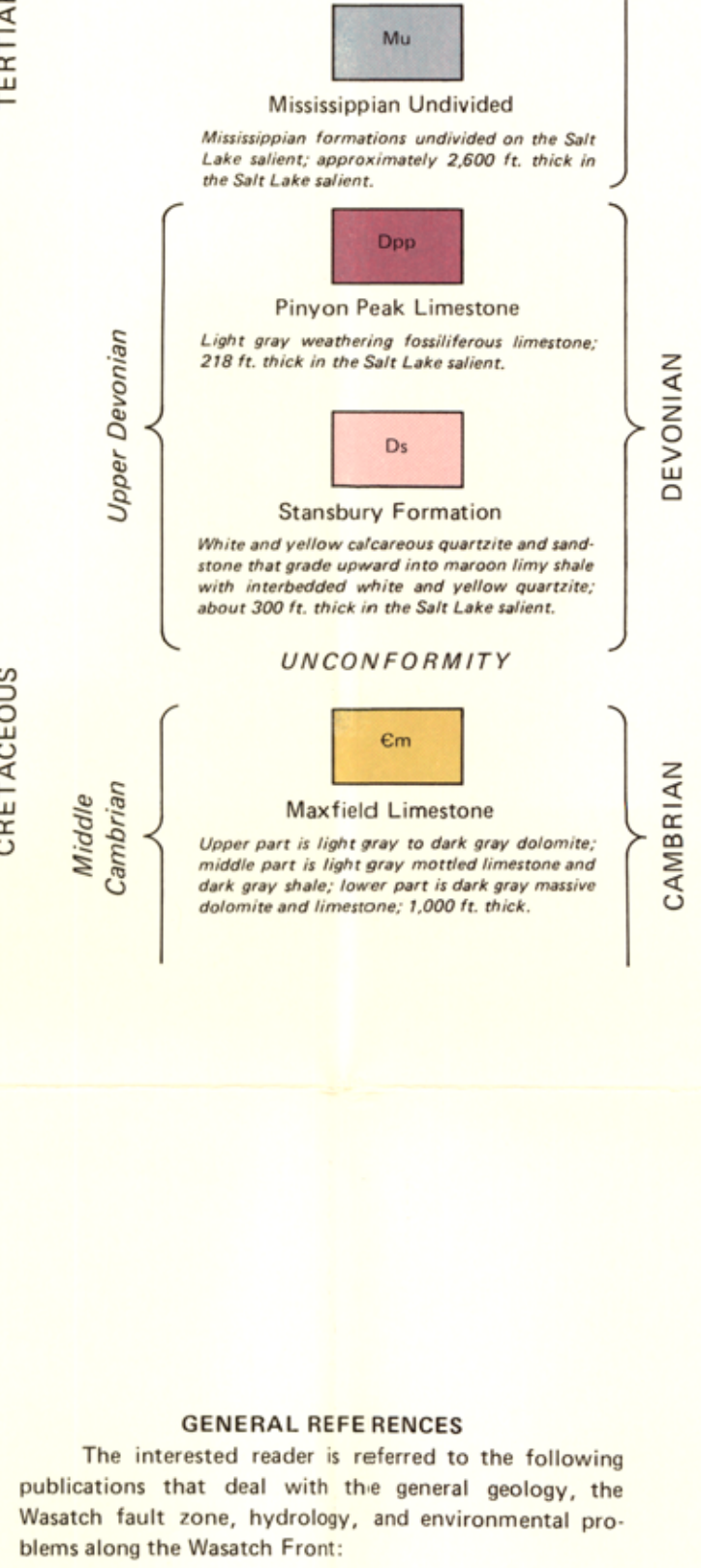
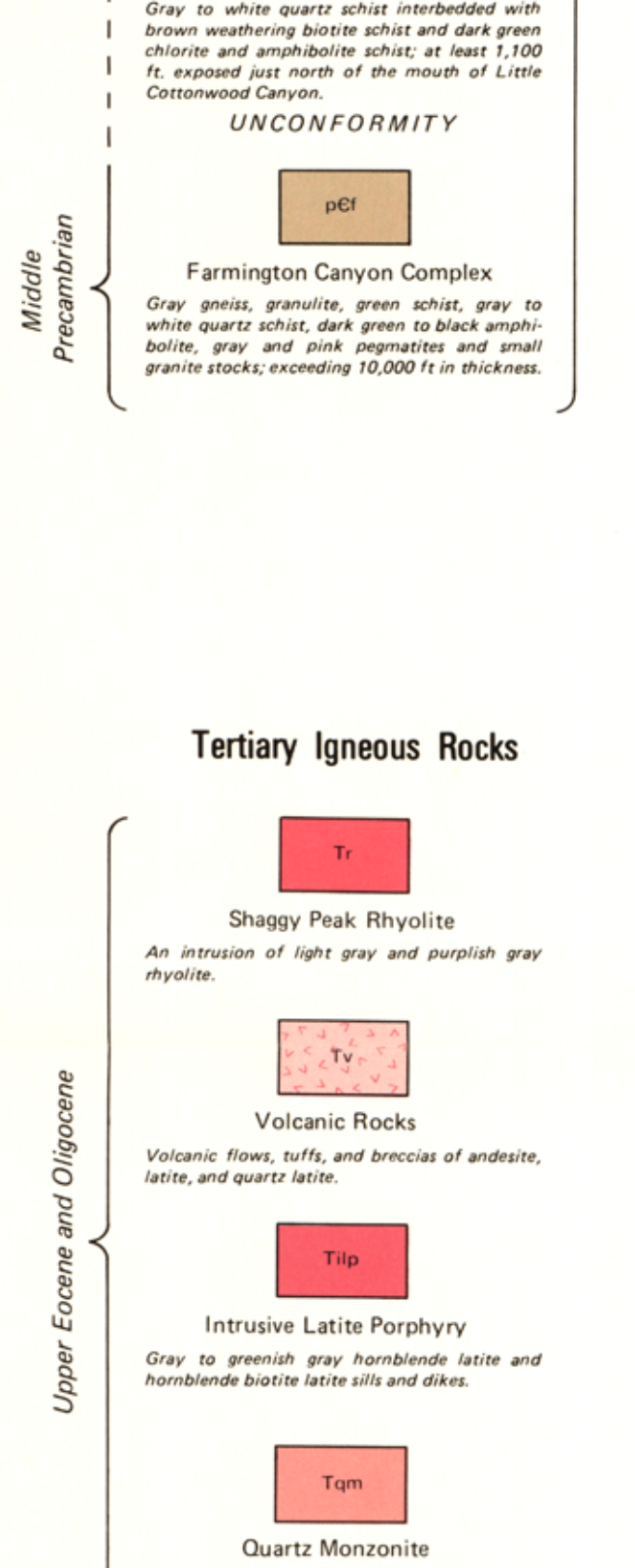
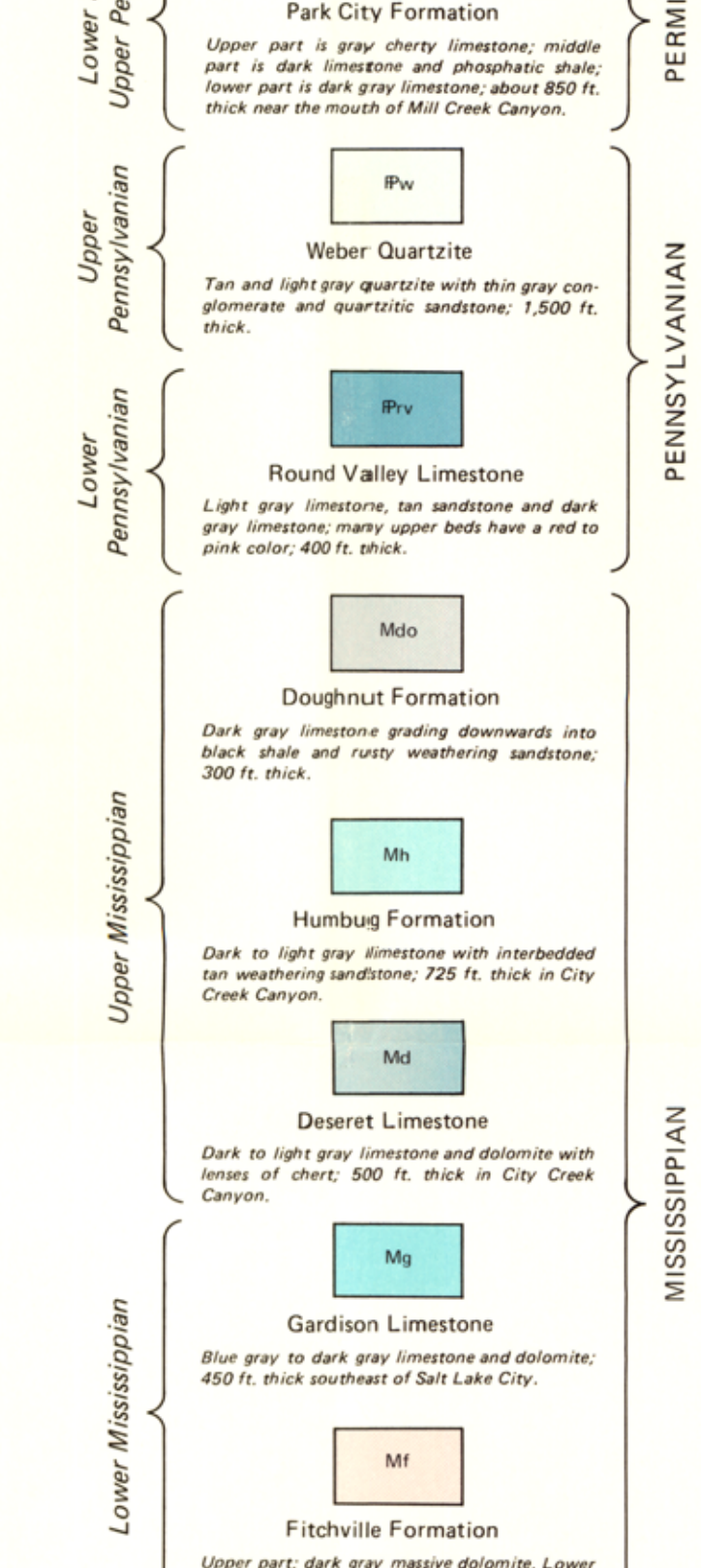
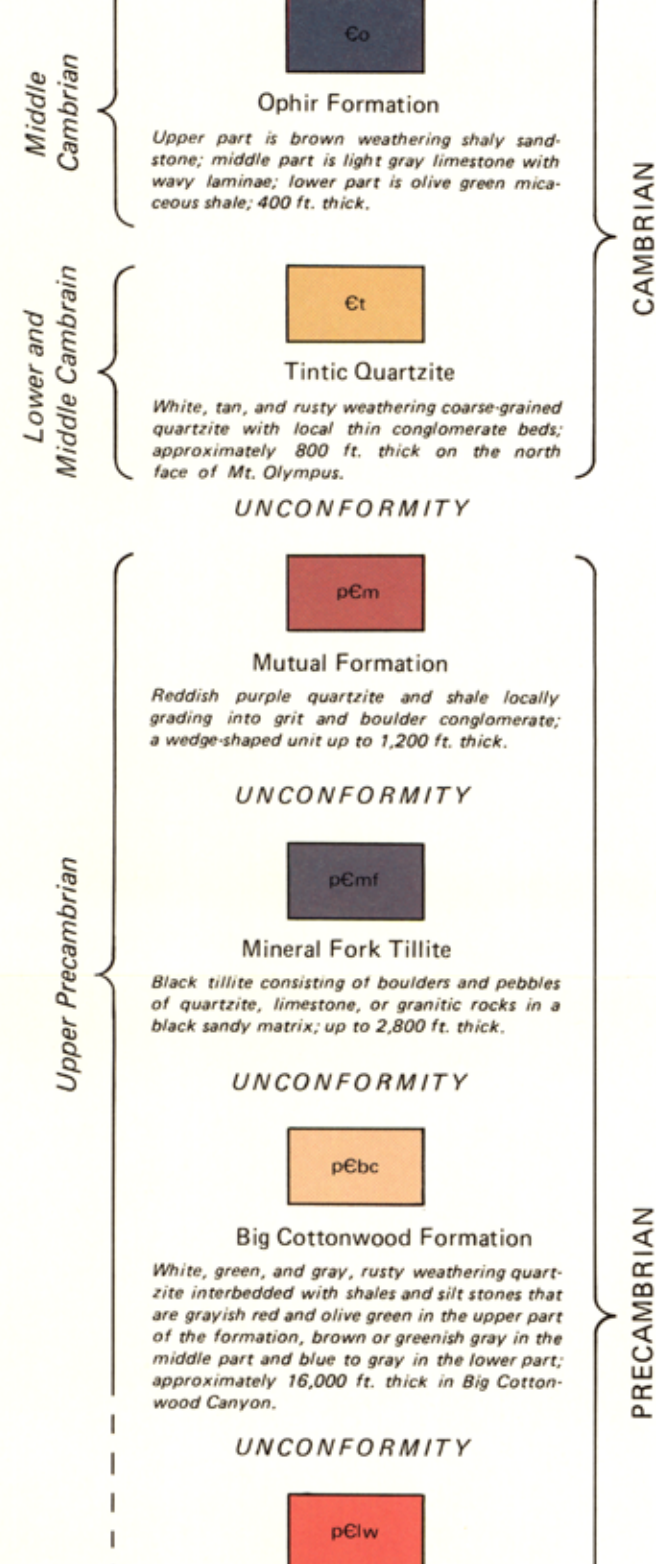
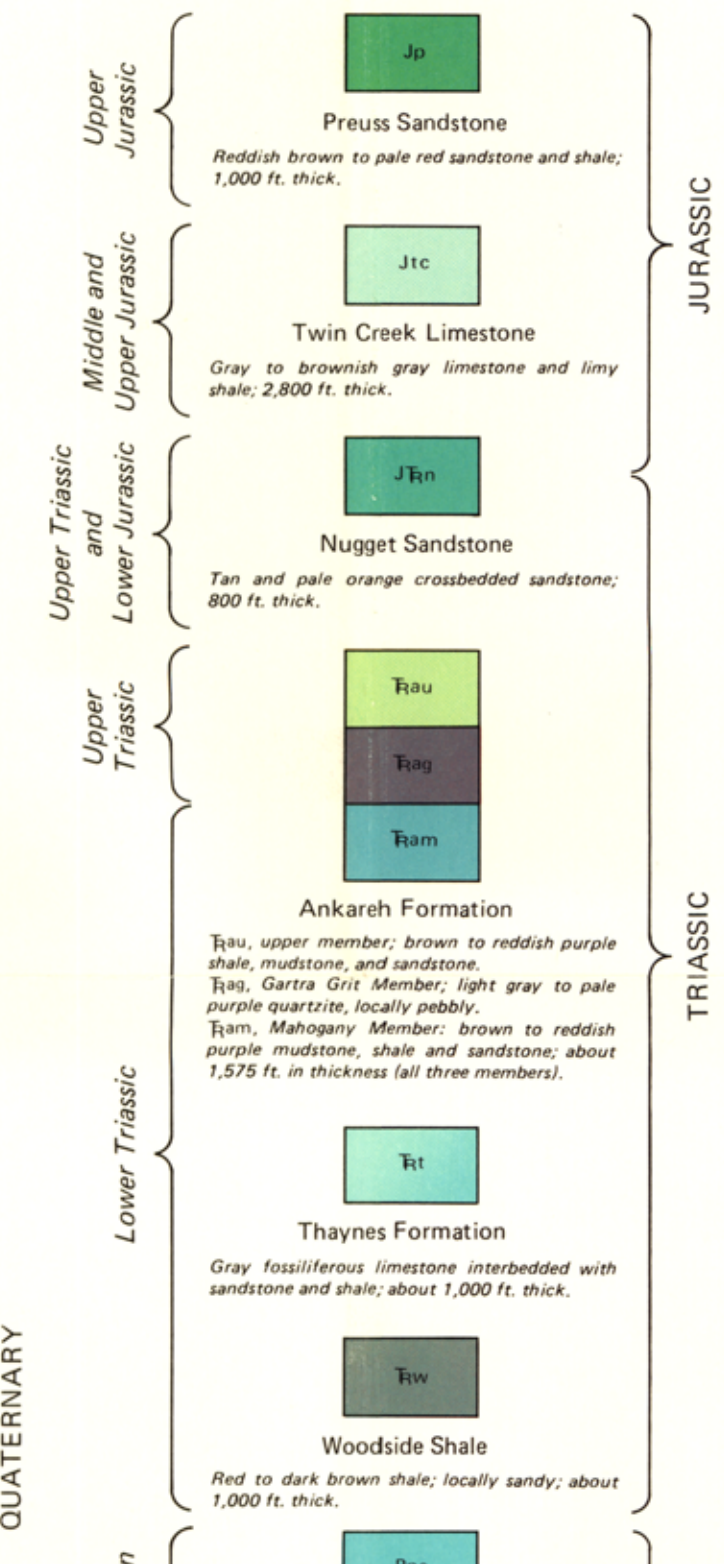
area is a gently sloping plain that dips northwesterly toward the Great Salt Lake. To the southeast the plain begins steepening upward toward the mountains at an elevation of about 5,040 feet (1,536 meters).

Lake Bonneville sediments (and soils developed on them) cover most of the valley. These sediments were mapped as three units (9)¹: (1) Provo Formation and younger lake bottom sediments (Qlb), (2) shore facies of the Provo Formation (Qpsf), and (3) shore facies of the Bonneville and Alpine Formations (Qba). Several sand and gravel pits have been operated in units two and three near the city of Tooele and just south of Mills Junction. The highest shoreline of Lake Bonneville is at an elevation of 5,240 feet (1,627 meters).

The Harkers Alluvium is exposed in several places around the eastern and southeastern parts of the valley. This unit is comprised of unconsolidated pre-Lake Bonneville alluvial fan material that extends above the highest lake level.

Near the mouth of Bates Canyon and to the south (secs. 23 and 26, T. 2 S., R. 4 W.) two almost parallel faults were traced along the western base of the Oquirrh Range. Farther south (in sec. 35) the easternmost fault was traced through two springs alongside the Union Pacific railroad. A northwesterly trending normal fault was mapped across the Harkers Alluvium near the mouths of Spring Canyon and Middle Canyon. It cuts across Middle Canyon at Angels Grove, a spring area.

Wasatch Range, Adjacent Valleys and Antelope Island



GENERAL REFERENCES
The interested reader is referred to the following publications that deal with the general geology, the Wasatch fault zone, hydrology, and environmental problems along the Wasatch Front:

Crittenden, Max D., 1964, General geology of Salt Lake County: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin 69, 192 p. (Also papers on Lake Bonneville, mining, and water supplies.)

Gwynn, J. Wallace (ed.), 1980, Great Salt Lake: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin 116, 400 p. (Papers on geology, chemistry, hydrology, biology, and engineering.)

Hilpert, Lowell S. (ed.), 1972, Environmental Geology of the Wasatch Front, 1971: Utah Geological Association Publication 1. (Papers on geology, faults, seismicity, landslides, floods, sand and gravel, and water supplies.)

Jensen, Mead Leroy (ed.), 1969, Guidebook of Northern Utah: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin 82, 266 p. (Papers on prehistoric man, geology, geochemistry, Wasatch fault zone, hydrology, floods, and ore deposits.)

Marsell, Ray E. (ed.), 1952, Geology of the Central Wasatch Mountains: Utah Geological Society Guidebook No. 8, 71 p.

Tertiary Igneous Rocks
Tr Shaggy Peak Rhyolite
An intrusion of light gray and purplish gray rhyolite.
Tv Volcanic Rocks
Volcanic flows, tuffs, and breccias of andesite, latite, and quartz latite.
Tlp Intrusive Latite Porphyry
Gray to greenish gray hornblende latite and hornblende biotite latite sills and dikes.
Tqm Quartz Monzonite
Bingham and Little Cottonwood stocks, chiefly medium gray quartz monzonite, but also light to medium gray quartz monzonite porphyry and monzonite.

Devonian
Dps Pinyon Peak Limestone
Light gray, weathering fossiliferous limestone; 218 ft. thick in the Salt Lake salient.
Ds Stansbury Formation
White and yellow calcareous quartzite and sandstone that grade upward into maroon limy shale with interbedded white and yellow quartzite; about 300 ft. thick in the Salt Lake salient.

Cambrian
Em Maxfield Limestone
Upper part is light gray to dark gray dolomite; middle part is light gray mottled limestone and dark gray shale; lower part is dark gray massive dolomite and limestone; 1,000 ft. thick.

Geologic Structures
Contact
Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.
Fault
Dashed where approximately located; Bar and ball on downthrown side.
Thrust Fault
Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed; sawteeth on upper plate.
Strike and dip of beds.

Alpine Formation
Early members subdivided Lake Bonneville sediments into divisions which corresponded to deposits associated with the various shorelines. One of these was the "Alpine Formation"; which is not accepted by more recent workers and which they include with the uppermost shoreline. Since this map is a compilation of previous works the "Alpine Formation" has been maintained in the map and represents transgressive shoreline deposits.